

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SHAWN ADRIAN WALKER,)	
)	Civil Action No. 21 – 55J
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Magistrate Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan
)	
COMMONWEALTH OF DAUPHIN)	
COUNTY and THE ATTORNEY)	
GENERAL OF THE STATE OF)	
PENNSYLVANIA,)	
)	
Respondents,		

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Petitioner Shawn Adrian Walker (“Petitioner”) is a state prisoner who is currently incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution at Somerset (“SCI-Somerset”) located in Somerset, Pennsylvania. He has filed with this Court a Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, which challenges his judgment of sentence imposed by the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County at Case No. CP-22-CR-0004951-2015. SCI-Somerset is located within the territorial boundaries of the Western District of Pennsylvania and Dauphin County is located within the territorial boundaries of the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

When a state prisoner files a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in a state like Pennsylvania, that contains two or more Federal judicial districts,

the application may be filed in the district court for the district wherein such person is in custody or in the district for the district within which the State court was held which convicted and sentenced him and each of such district courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction to entertain the application. **The district court for the district wherein such an application is filed in the exercise of its discretion and in furtherance of justice may transfer the application to the other district court for hearing and determination.**

28 U.S.C. § 2241(d) (emphasis added).

While Petitioner's present place of incarceration is in this district, he is challenging his underlying state court conviction out of Dauphin County, which lies in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. This Court finds that the furtherance of justice, as well as the convenience of the parties, would be better served by transferring this case to the Middle District. This decision is in accordance with the agreed practice of the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Pennsylvania, which is to transfer any habeas petition filed by state prisoners in their respective districts to the district in which the county where the judgment of sentence was had is located.

AND NOW, this 19th day of May, 2021;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this case be transferred to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.¹

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk mark this case **CLOSED** and **TRANSFER** forthwith.

/s/ Lisa P. Lenihan
Lisa P. Lenihan
United States Magistrate Judge

Cc: Shawn Adrian Walker
MX9017
SCI Somerset
1590 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, PA 15510-0001

¹ The transfer of a case to another federal court is a non-dispositive pre-trial matter as to which a magistrate judge has authority to rule. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a); Scheafnocker v. Comm'r, 642 F.3d 428, 433 n.6 (3d Cir. 2011), *vacated on other grounds*, 2012 WL 1854183 (3d Cir. Apr. 24, 2012).